MULTI-VENDOR INTERNET COMMERCE SYSTEM FOR E-COMMERCE APPLICATIONS AND METHODS THEREFOR

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a multi-vendor Internet Commerce System for e-commerce applications. More particularly, the present invention relates to an improved architecture for enabling e-commerce in an efficient and consumer-friendly way for a plurality of vendors through the Internet. A multi-vendor Internet commerce system (MV-ICS) is provided which includes a centrally implemented multi-vendor central processing unit (MV-CPU) acting cooperatively with a centrally implemented multi-vendor shared datastore (MV-SD). Using a variety of vendor-site I/O modules and consumer-interface I/O modules, the resources with the MV-SD may be shared by the plurality of vendor websites. This serves to relieve the individual vendor websites from having to set up and maintain some or all of certain facilities (i.e., programs and capabilities, including merchant database, consumer database, shopping cart facility, checkout facility, and the like). Various logic associated with the MV-CPU ensures that the appropriate communication occurs between each vendor website and the MV-SD, as well as the consumer via a browser.